

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) An energy collecting system, comprising:
a heat storage;
a heat source for imparting heat to water supplied from the heat storage by electric power from a commercial power source and thereby producing cool or warm water;
a primary cool/warm water pump for pumping up the water from the heat storage and supplying the water via a sucking pipe to the heat source;
a motor for driving the primary cool/warm water pump;
a water supply pipe disposed between a discharge outlet of the primary cool/warm water pump and the heat source;
a water supply pipe for returning water from a discharge outlet of the heat source to the heat storage;
an expansion tank or a vacuum breaking valve disposed in a highest section of the water supply pipe;
a waterwheel disposed in a lowest section of the water supply pipe for collecting potential energy of the water discharged from the heat source; and
an electric power generator rotated by torque generated by the waterwheel to generate electric power.

22. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising:
an inverter connected to an output port of the electric power generator for converting a voltage and a frequency of electric power generated by the electric power generator into a desired voltage and a desired frequency;

a grid connected inverter between the motor and a commercial power source for changing a system from the commercial power source to a side of the motor or from the inverter to a side of the commercial power source; and

a cable for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the motor to an output port of the inverter.

23. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising:
an inverter connected to an output port of the electric power generator for converting a voltage and a frequency of electric power generated by the electric power generator into a desired voltage and a desired frequency;

a grid connected inverter between the motor and a commercial power source for changing a system from the commercial power source to a side of the motor or from the inverter to a side of the commercial power source; and

a cable for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the motor to an output port of the inverter, wherein the motor to drive the primary cool/warm water pump is driven by electric power obtained by adding the power generated by the waterwheel to the power of the commercial power source.

24. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising:
an inverter connected to an output port of the electric power generator for converting a voltage and a frequency of electric power generated by the electric power generator into a desired voltage and a desired frequency;

a grid connected inverter between the heat source and a commercial power source for changing a system from the commercial power source to a side of the heat source or from the inverter to a side of the commercial power source; and

a cable for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the heat source to an output port of the inverter.

25. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising:

an inverter connected to an output port of the electric power generator for converting a voltage and a frequency of electric power generated by the electric power generator into a desired voltage and a desired frequency;

a grid connected inverter between the heat source and a commercial power source for changing a system from the commercial power source to a side of the heat source or from the inverter to a side of the commercial power source; and

a cable for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the heat source to an output port of the inverter,

wherein the heat source is driven by electric power obtained by adding the power generated by the waterwheel to the power of the commercial power source.

26. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, wherein the electric power generated by the electric power generator is supplied to a load such as a lighting apparatus in a machine room.

27. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising an electric power change-over unit for changing a system, when power is not being generated, from a commercial power source to a load side and for changing the system, when power is being generated, from the electric power generator to a load side, wherein

the electric power generated by the electric power generator is supplied to a load such as a lighting apparatus in a machine room.

28. (new) An energy collecting system according to claim 21, comprising:
an inverter for converting the generated electric power desired by a load connected to an output port of the electric power generator into a voltage and a frequency;

a grid connected inverter between the load and a commercial power source for changing a system from the commercial power source to a side of the load or from the inverter to a side of the commercial power source; and

a cable for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the load to an output port of the inverter.

29. (new) An energy collecting system according to one of claim 21, comprising:

a bypass pipe and a bypass valve bypassing the waterwheel; and pressure sensors disposed at an inlet and an outlet of the waterwheel.

30. (new) An energy collecting system, comprising:

a heat storage for storing therein water obtained from a heat source;

a heat source for producing cool or warm water using water from the heat storage;

a pump for supplying the water from the heat storage to the heat source;

a motor for driving the pump;

a waterwheel rotated by the water supplied from the heat source;

an electric power generator driven by the waterwheel to generate electric power;

an inverter connected to an output port of the electric power generator;

a grid connected inverter disposed between the motor and a commercial power source,

the grid connected inverter conducting a change-over operation between a system connecting the commercial power source to the motor and a system connecting the inverter to the commercial power source; and

a connecting line for connecting an electric path between the grid connected inverter and the motor to an output port of the inverter.